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February 16, 1999 LB 84, 432

all departments and make them more efficient. This streamlining relates to preaudits or the procedure used to verify billings before a check is made out to pay the bill. Currently, the DAS must do a preaudit on every payroll item and voucher over \$250. Under 432, the DAS Director would be allowed to authorize and agencies to perform their own specified departments preaudits on vouchers and payrolls. It would also increase the amount of these vouchers and payrolls subject to the preaudit from \$250 to \$1,500. This is an efficiency issue. The state is currently doing a pilot project with the University of Nebraska using a similar system. I believe that these changes could save the state as much as \$300,000 a year or more. Other states have issued similar policies with success. Over \$83 million in vouchers or 94 percent of the documents handled would be covered by this bill. The time saved would be enormous. DAS Accounting would still review the payments but the savings would come through the reduction in the employees hours and paperwork at the agency level. This is another step forward in the move to paperless system of payments, electronic transfers, and other transactions. Streamlining the smaller vouchers would allow the department to concentrate on larger amounts without sacrificing accountability. All vouchers and payrolls would still be subject to the same audit procedure that they have in place. The preaudit procedure would be the only area affected. I do not believe that oversight would be compromised by streamlining these preaudits. I would like to answer any questions you may have or try to. I believe this is a good bill. It is something that we need to look at in saving time and money. With that, thank you and look forward to passage of LB 432.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Discussion on LB 432. Seeing none, Senator Janssen, you may close on your bill. He waives closing. The question is the advancement to E & R Initial of LB 432. All in favor vote aye, opposed no. Record, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance 432.

SENATOR CROSBY: LB 432 advances. LB 84.

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB 84 was introduced by Senator Wickersham and Chris Peterson. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first